Syllabus
ECON 184: Economic Development in Africa

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University of California, Riverside
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General information
Time and location: TR 9:40-11:00am BOYHL 1471
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Prerequisites
ECON 102A or ECON 103A or instructor’s approval.

Course description
This course will examine major current issues in development economics with special emphasis on how they relate to Sub-Saharan Africa. The course will combine macroeconomic (e.g. growth determinants, structural adjustments) and microeconomic issues (e.g. health, human capital, poverty dynamics) as well as institutional explanations for the lack of economic growth in the region. The course will pay particular attention to the policy implications from each of the topics covered here.
Requirements and grading

All assignments mentioned below must be turned in at the beginning of the class or left in my office before the class meets. Only under extreme circumstances (such as medical emergencies) will late assignments be accepted at the discretion of the instructor. The dates for all exams (once established) and assignments are final.

Two problem sets 5% each.
One midterm (May 1st) 25%.
One presentation (in groups) 10%.
One 15-page paper due May 29 25%.
One final (Friday June 13, 09:00 - 11:00A.M.) 30%.

The topics and guidelines for the paper and the presentation (e.g., goals and structure) will be distributed later in the quarter.

Textbooks

Required


Suggested


For daily online news from Africa, refer to the [BBC](http://www.bbc.co.uk) or to [All-Africa News](http://www.allafrica.com). Background information for African countries is available at the [World Factbook](http://www.cia.gov). The Economist also keeps a country brief including a limited number
of African countries. For an economic journal on African issues visit the

Plagiarism

The appropriate ways for referencing the material used to write the paper
will be discussed in class. Any student found committing plagiarism, not
handing in original work of his/her own, or cheating, will be given an F in
the course and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University.

Course outline and readings

Each of the following topics should take us one week, on average. The
[*] symbol indicates the required readings. All others are suggested but
some/most of them will be covered in class.

I. Patterns of economic development in Africa

  Africa.

- [*] Cooper, Frederick. (2002). Africa since 1940: The Past of the
  Present, pp. 91-118.

  a Global Perspective in Challenges of African Growth. Opportunities,
  Constraints and Strategic Directions. World Bank.

- United Nations Development Program (UNDP). (2006). Human Devel-
  opment Report 2006, Table 1 and Table 14, pp. 283-286 and 331-334.

  Actors, Chapters 1-3.

Statistical analysis

II. Economic growth: capital accumulation

- [*] Easterly (2002). Chapter 3: Solow’s Surprise: Investment is Not the Key to Growth.

III. Economic growth: geography vs. institutions

IV. Agriculture and land tenure


V. Poverty and inequality


VI. Insurance and shocks


VII. Health and education


• [*] Easterly (2002) Chapter 4: Education for What?


VIII. The economics of conflict, war and corruption

Economic Theories of Conflict


• Collier, P. (2007), Chapters 2 and 5.


### War and Economic Development


### Corruption


Figure 1: Map of Africa